

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 201554Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2977
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07069

FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REPORT ON SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD
DISSIDENT TRIALS

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1. NORWEGIAN PERMREP SHARED WITH HIS DANISH COLLEAGUE AND
ME REPORT FROM NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW ON SOVIET
ATTITUDES TOWARD CURRENT TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS. ACCORDING
TO VIBE, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR'S SOURCE WAS A RUSSIAN
MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PARTY WHO
TURNS UP FROM TIME TO TIME AT NORWEGIAN EMBASSY WHEN
SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMATION THEY WANT IMPARTED
INFORMALLY TO NORWEGIANS.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS RUSSIAN SOURCE, SOVIET AUTHORITIES
HAD GROWN INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED OVER ACTIVITIES OF
DISSIDENTS. NOT ONLY WERE THEY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN
CHALLENGING OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND
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ENCOURAGING OPPOSITION TO SOVIET POLICIES AND ORGANIZING
AND TAKING PART IN UNRULY DEMONSTRATIONS; THEY HAD ALSO
BECOME MORE AND MORE INVOLVED WITH FOREIGN ELEMENTS AND
WERE GETTING INCREASING PUBLICITY ABROAD FOR THEMSELVES
AND THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD HAD
ENOUGH OF IT.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOVIETS HAD NOW BECOME CONVINCED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNATURE ON A SALT AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER. THEREFORE, THE REASONING WENT, WHILE THERE WOULD BE COSTS TO SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, A SALT AGREEMENT WAS ALREADY IRRETRIEVABLY DELAYED AND THEY MIGHT AS WELL GO AHEAD NOW AND CLEAN UP THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DISSIDENTS. ACCORDING TO THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR'S SOURCE, THE AUTHORITIES MEAN TO MOVE ACROSS THE BOARD AT FULL SPEED AND GET THE WHOLE THING OUT OF THE WAY, "ONCE AND FOR ALL". BENNETT

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